



Cambridge Arts Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cambridge Arts Council presents

***The Park Spark Project* by Matthew Mazzotta**

Turning dog waste into energy

The first public methane digester for dogs in the world

Location: Pacific Street Park (Sidney St. between Pacific and Tudor), Cambridge

Dates: August 25 – September 25, 2010

Cambridge, MA — What happens when an artist finds a new source of energy? The Cambridge Arts Council invites you to visit and participate in ***Park Spark Project*** – a scientific-art intervention that transforms dog waste into energy. Artist Matthew Mazzotta has installed the first Dog Park Methane Digester in the United States at Pacific Street Park (Sidney Street between Pacific and Tudor Streets) in Cambridge. As dog owners dispose of their pet's waste in the Park Spark Digester, it creates a steady stream of burnable methane gas that powers an old-fashioned gas-burning lamppost in the park. Funded through Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and in partnership with the City of Cambridge, this public art project runs between August 25 and September 25, 2010. For more information to get involved, call the Cambridge Arts Council at 617-349-4380, or visit www.parksparkproject.com or www.cambridgeartscouncil.org.

In the next couple of weeks, Cambridge Arts Council and Matthew Mazzotta will host design meetings to gather ideas from the community for how to best use the flame.

First Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 1 at 7:00 p.m.*

Livable Streets Alliance 100 Sidney Street

Cambridge, MA 02139

****Humans only***

Addressing a Problem

Though little known to the general public, dog waste that is bagged and thrown in the trash must then be transported to a waste facility, where it then continues to create methane, a harmful greenhouse gas that is released into the atmosphere. ***The Park Spark Project*** is a simple and effective solution to this problem; converting the waste to methane on-site, dramatically reducing greenhouse emissions and creating usable energy. Mazzotta hopes to install permanent underground digesters in parks, not only in Cambridge, but throughout the country.

Creating a Situation for Civic Engagement

Currently, at Pacific Street, the ***Park Spark Project*** burns the methane in a lamppost. However, the energy can be used in any number of ways – a shadow projection box, a popcorn stand, or even a teahouse. In the spring of 2010, Mazzotta developed a similar project in the Netherlands that used the energy to boil water for a teahouse where the community would convene and share tea.

:: Download press photos at: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?albumID=408&level=album>

The Cambridge Arts Council is supported in part by the City of Cambridge, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the Cambridge Community Foundation.



Support for Park Spark Project provided, in part, by



Cambridge Arts Council – *Nurturing the Arts in Cambridge*

The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working and visiting Cambridge. www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380.

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